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(c) if so, whether the copy of the report will be placed on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (a) & (b) The answer is in the affirmative.

(c) It is not in the public interest to place on the table of the House the report referred to, since the matter is under enquiry.

Steps for giving employment to fishermen

* 146 Q.—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri K P. Gopalan): Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the measures taken by the Government to help the unemployed and starving fishermen in the districts of Malabar and South Kanara?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The Government have taken the following measures to help the unemployed and starving fishermen in the districts of Malabar and South Kanara :—

(1) A sum of Rs. 10,000 has been sanctioned towards opening of gruel centres for fishermen in Malabar district affected by poor fishing season.

(2) Another sum of Rs. 10,000 has been sanctioned for giving cash gifts at the rate of Rs. 25 to each of the deserving fishermen families in Malabar district for rethatching their houses.

(3) A sum of Rs. 23,000 has been sanctioned towards the cost of mid-day meals to be supplied to fisher-children studying in fisheries schools of Malabar and South Kanara districts for a period of one month in the first instance.

The Fishermen Co-operative Societies give short term loans to fishermen to tide over lean months.

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN: Sir, fishermen are suffering from want of employment for almost four to six months every year. This problem can be solved only by organizing the fishing industry itself on a co-operative basis and by encouraging thrift among fishermen. Therefore, will the Government consider the feasibility of organizing and running the fishing industry itself on a co-operative basis?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: That aspect of the question is also being examined.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: Sir, the Hon. Minister stated that an amount of Rs. 10,000 had been sanctioned for the opening of gruel centres? In what centres is the supply of gruel in force? If the supply is over, do the Government intend to extend this concession still further?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Notice, Sir.